

NEWS

At last the great anthracite coal strike has come to an end. It was called off on the 25th by President Mitchell and the executive board of the United Mine Workers of America, the order to take effect and the strikers to return to work on the 29th. Though all the employers had not agreed to the strikers' terms, nor any of them fully, the officers concluded that the victory was so nearly complete that no good end could be served by continuing the strike any longer. So they called it off. But employes of the companies which had not signified their willingness to pay the ten per cent. advance until next April and to suspend the sliding scale—a method whereby wages rise and fall with the price of coal at the seaboard—were advised by the "call-off" order to remain on strike until these conditions are granted, the returning strikers to support them meanwhile. The total number to return was 135,000 out of 140,000. As the companies had agreed to consider all grievances of their employes the order further advised that "when work is resumed committees be selected by the mine employes, and that they wait upon the superintendents of the companies and present their grievances in an orderly, businesslike manner, and ask that they be corrected." One fact alone would make this strike memorable. When it began there were only 8,000 members in the anthracite union, but at its close there were more than 100,000. It is to this fact that the order calling off the strike alludes where it reads:

While it is true that you have not secured redress for all your wrongs; while it is true that the increase in your earnings will not fully compensate you for the arduous labor you are compelled to perform in the mines, you have established a powerful organization, which, if maintained and conducted on business principles, will enable you to regulate many of your local grievances and make your employment less hazardous and more profitable than before the strike began.

The history of the strike may be followed by reference to pages 361, 375, 396, 407, 423, 424, 439 and 455 of The Public.

The political news of the week closes with the departure of Mr.

Bryan from the east, where his tour has been a continuous ovation, for Chicago, where he is to speak during the remainder of the campaign. He arrives in Chicago as we write, after having spoken at important points on the way from New York.

From the Philippines come reports of another battle. It was fought in Ilocos province, in the northwest of Luzon. The Filipinos were well intrenched and fought desperately, and the American force, greatly inferior in numbers, was compelled to retreat after suffering a loss of 5 killed and 13 wounded. Among the killed was the lieutenant in command. A smaller fight occurred near a place called Looc, in Luzon, in which the American loss was 2 killed and 3 wounded.

American casualties since July 1, 1898, inclusive of all current official reports given out in detail at Washington to October 31, 1900, are as follows:

Deaths to May 16, 1900 (see page 91)	1,847
Killed reported since May 16, 1900. 100	
Deaths and wounds, disease and accidents reported since May 16, 1900.....	468

Total deaths since July 1, 1898.....	2,415
Wounded	2,321
Captured	10

Total casualties since July 1, 1898.....	4,746
Total casualties reported last week	4,709
Total deaths reported last week.....	2,403

In the Transvaal as in the Philippines sporadic fighting still continues. On the 26th the Boers attacked Jacobsdal, near Kimberley, and though they were driven off it was only after a stubborn fight in which the British force of 52 men lost 14 killed and 20 wounded. Two days earlier there was a sharp fight between Boers and the Cape Colony police, reinforced by colonial troops, near Hoopstad, in the Orange Free State, in which the colonials lost 7 killed, 11 wounded and 15 captured. The engagement lasted two hours.

While the fight at Jacobsdal was in progress, on the 26th, the Transvaal was ceremoniously proclaimed at Pretoria as part of the British empire.

Of the Chinese situation there is nothing to report but the action of

the American government on the Anglo-German agreement, quoted last week, and the meeting of the foreign ministers at Peking to confer about conditions to be imposed upon China. The ministers met on the 26th and agreed unanimously to demand the execution of Prince Tuan and four other Manchu princes, one duke and three ministers—a total of nine. Regarding the Anglo-German agreement, the American state department delivered a note on the 29th to the British and German representatives at Washington, which was made public on the 31st. It expresses the full sympathy of the United States with the British and German governments in the principles set forth in the first and second clauses of their agreement. The third clause is ignored as being a reciprocal agreement between Great Britain and Germany. By reference to the agreement, published on page 456, it will be seen that the United States by their note join in the Anglo-German demand for the "open door" in China, and unite in the pledge not to make use of present complications for purposes of territorial aggrandizement but to aid in maintaining the integrity of the Chinese empire.

NEWS NOTES.

—In a proclamation of the 29th, slightly tinged with campaign coloring, President McKinley named November 29 as Thanksgiving day.

—Prof. Max Mueller, the world-famed linguist and philologist and probably the world's greatest Sanskrit scholar, died in London on the 29th. He was 77 years old.

—The results of the twelfth census of the United States, announced on the 30th, show a total population of 6,295,220. This is a gain of 13,225,464 during the past ten years, or nearly 21 per cent.

—Jerry Simpson is making an "end-of-the-campaign" tour through western Kansas, in support of Bryan for president and Briedenthal for governor, with a party of 30 young women speakers.

—The socialists have scored numerous successes in recent parliamentary elections in Germany. Among them is the election by an enormous majority of Herr Ledebour in Berlin to succeed the late Herr Liebknecht.

—William K. Vanderbilt, as the representative of the Vanderbilt interests, has succeeded in acquiring control of the Southern Pacific Railway company, thus making the family masters of a line of railroads from ocean to ocean.